

# the webb

A publication of Gardner-Webb University

Summer/Fall 2005



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- Farewell to Dr. Campbell
- GWU Welcomes a New President
- Centennial Celebration
- International Explorations



Gardner-Webb  
University



• GWU HOME FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

- **SEPTEMBER 3**  
GWU vs. Union - 6:00 pm
- **SEPTEMBER 8**  
GWU vs. Belhaven - 6:00 pm
- **SEPTEMBER 24**  
GWU vs. UT Martin - 1:30 pm
- **OCTOBER 8**  
GWU vs. Hampton - 6:00 pm
- **OCTOBER 29**  
GWU vs. Liberty - 6:00 pm
- **NOVEMBER 5**  
GWU vs. Charleston Southern - 1:30 pm
- **NOVEMBER 19**  
GWU vs. Wofford College - 1:30 pm

**FAMILY WEEKEND**

**SEPTEMBER 23 - 24**

Senior Pinning, Faculty/Staff Variety Show,  
Football and more

**HOMECOMING**

**NOVEMBER 4 - 5**

Brunch for the Decades, Parade, Tailgating,  
Football, Volleyball Tournament, Hall of Fame  
Banquet, Reunions and more

**GWU THEATER PRODUCTIONS**

**24 HOURS**

**SEPTEMBER 3 - 7:30 PM**

Millennium Playhouse

**PURGING MARY**

**OCTOBER 5, 6, 7, 8, 9**

@ 7:30 pm and 9:00 pm

Sunday - 2:30 pm

Millennium Playhouse

**GWU FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**

December 1 - 7:00 pm

Dover Theatre

**10TH ANNUAL SALVATION**

**ARMY BENEFIT CONCERT**

featuring Carl Cartee

December 3 - 7:00 pm

Dover Theatre

For information on alumni events contact the  
Office of Alumni Relations at 704-406-3862 or online at: [www.alumni.gardner-webb.edu](http://www.alumni.gardner-webb.edu).

For information about GWU sports check out: [www.gwusports.com](http://www.gwusports.com).

For information regarding GWU Fine Arts call 704-406-4448.

Vol. 39, No. 2

SUMMER 2005

A publication of the Gardner-Webb  
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University Relations and Development

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## GWU GRADUATION 2005





# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE



*"Reflections of the Past – Dreams for the Future"*

**T**his is the last time I will write to you as the President of Gardner-Webb University. I have previously used this space to update you about the progress, programs, and people at Gardner-Webb University. This issue is full of information on these important subjects, so I want to use this column to tell what I feel in my heart about Gardner-Webb. I came to Gardner-Webb in the fall of 2002 at the invitation of the Board of Trustees. It was a turbulent and stormy time in the life of this institution. The trustees asked me if I would come and work on the campus to relieve the tension and create an atmosphere that could get us back to our main task. They also asked me to give the institution leadership

through the difficulties we were experiencing with the NCAA and to assist in the process of securing the new president.

The above three have been accomplished. The institution is now functioning in positive ways. Gone are the polarization and conflict that dominated the scene then, and a very good spirit now pervades this place. The NCAA investigation has ended, and we have done all that

is required of us, so now we are in full compliance. Our penalties have ended, our athletic program is clean, and our teams are excelling both on and off the court. The presidential search has been conducted both professionally and carefully by a committee composed of trustees, students, faculty, alumni and administrators. It has been an excellent committee.

During the first year I was at Gardner-Webb, I became convinced that among other things we needed to reorganize the academic administration. We secured a consultant from SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) who suggested a working model which we adopted and went to work on it. It has proved to be an effective vehicle and will continue to bear results in the future.

I WILL ALWAYS  
BE PROUD OF MY  
TENURE HERE.  
MY THOUGHTS AND  
PRAYERS WILL ALWAYS  
CONTINUE FOR GOD'S  
GREAT SCHOOL IN  
BOILING SPRINGS,  
GARDNER-WEBB  
UNIVERSITY.



The Board of Trustees then asked me if I would stay until this reorganization was in place and functioning well and a president elected. I agreed to extend my stay, and I have



never regretted it. I have had numerous surprises since coming to Gardner-Webb, but the biggest has been how much I have come to love this place. Gardner-Webb has a way of getting into your blood and your heart.

I found here students who are among the brightest and best I have observed anywhere. I

have enjoyed getting to know them and sharing so many functions with them. Many people in our world today are concerned about the future of our nation - I am, but not to the point of our future leaders. Our future will be in good hands with graduates like the students at Gardner-Webb. I found the faculty at Gardner-Webb competent and committed to students. The faculty were even better than I had been told they were, and I soon recognized that our faculty is second to none, which means that our students are getting the finest possible educational experience they could have. I have enjoyed working with the faculty and



want to thank them for working with me and allowing me to be their colleague.

The staff and administration have been enormously generous to me. Their cooperative spirit and dedicated interest

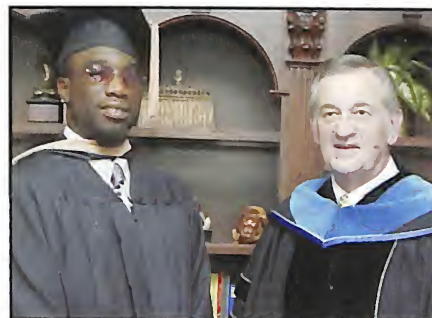
in Gardner-Webb to make this a better place has made my job much easier. Every person, regardless of the position they hold in this institution, is extremely important, and I am grateful for all our staff and administrators.

I have been particularly blessed and found great enjoyment with the opportunity of working with our Senior Staff. Each one of them are knowledgeable in their area of work and take great pride in what they do, and they do it

well. I thank them for helping us to work together as a team and to each of them for being a friend.

So to all persons in all the offices across this campus I want to thank you

for making my life on this campus so pleasant. It is my opinion that all these people genuinely believe that what they do here is "about students," and that is what makes Gardner-Webb special. Our external constituents have also been supportive and continue to demonstrate their devotion to our university. I have enjoyed working with our alumni, with our generous donors, our supporters and most of all with the men and women who have served on our Board of Trustees. They have accepted their responsibility for setting the policy of this institution, and they will continue to give their leadership in the years ahead.



I find myself not wanting to leave, but knowing for various reasons I must. Part of my heart now resides in the same place where the hearts of many readers of this publication lie - at Gardner-Webb. When I came to Gardner-Webb in the fall of 2002 I was asked to be Interim President. A year later the Board dropped the word "interim" and gave me the privilege of being the 11th President of Gardner-Webb University. I again thank them for this high honor. I will always be proud of my tenure here. My thoughts and prayers will always continue for God's great school in Boiling Springs, Gardner-Webb University.

God's blessings to you,

Frank R. Campbell

# GARDNER-WEBB BIDS FAREWELL TO PRESIDENT FRANK CAMPBELL

Impact Made by University's 11th President Will Be Felt for Decades to Come

Dr. Frank R. Campbell was not a stranger to the life of Baptist Colleges when he was called upon to lead Gardner-Webb University as its 11th president. He had served as President of Averett University for 17 years before retiring in the Summer of 2002; however, his retirement was short-lived. In October of 2002, after the resignation of former Gardner-Webb President Dr. Chris White, Dr. Campbell was called on to lead the University through an interim period while the Board of Trustees organized a plan to determine who would be the next long-term appointment to the GWU Presidency. After several months the board requested that Dr. Campbell become the permanent president at Gardner-Webb, and he held that position until June 2005.

His three-year stay with Gardner-Webb will be noted as one of the most important in the 100 years of the Institution. His duty was as much that of a statesman as that of chief executive officer. An eloquent communicator, Dr. Campbell drew together a university community that was in need of cohesiveness following the abrupt departure of his predecessor. Working with the trustees, administration, faculty, staff, students, the community and alumni, he immediately set about calling groups



together to focus on the main purpose of the Institution: the Christian education of its students. "Dr. Campbell has been a part of the family here at Gardner-Webb. He has been consistently thoughtful and earnest in the fact

that every decision is made with the students' welfare in the forefront," noted Gardner-Webb Student



Government President, Kellie Robinson. "He is an example of everything that our university is built upon, from Christian values to integrity to higher learning. God has blessed us generously at Gardner-Webb, and one of the most amazing blessings that we have had is the service of Dr. Frank Campbell."

This tenure was not without its tangible results as well. An

"DR. CAMPBELL'S COMING TO GARDNER-WEBB IN OCTOBER OF 2002 WAS PROVIDENTIAL. THE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN BLESSED BY HIS EXTRAORDINARY WISDOM, HIS LEADERSHIP, HIS COMPASSION, HIS CHRISTIAN EXAMPLE, HIS LOVE FOR STUDENTS AND COLLEAGUES, AND HIS DEDICATION TO THIS UNIVERSITY AND ITS PEOPLE. WE WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US."

DR. FRANK BONNER — INCOMING PRESIDENT,  
GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY

ambitious five-year plan was set by the University's Board of Trustees to embark upon many physical improvements to campus, including major renovations and construction of new academic facilities, a stadium complex which was completed, and additional student housing. In addition, Dr. Campbell led the University through a time of adhering to new National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) standards for the GWU athletic program. Internal programs and policies were created in conjunction with NCAA mandates to better establish Gardner-Webb's operation as an NCAA Division I Institution.

During his short stay with the University, Dr. Campbell not only brought vision and leadership to a campus in transition but actively built upon 100 years of excellence in education by strengthening community relationships, increasing enrollment, forging new development prospects, and instilling a renewed confidence in Gardner-Webb as a leader in Christian Higher Education.



# EDUCATOR, COMMUNITY LEADER AND LONG-TIME PROVOST BECOMES 12TH PRESIDENT OF GWU

A. Frank Bonner Named to Succeed Frank Campbell

"Your search committee has for the past 13 months engaged in a nationwide search for the most able candidate to be president of the university," said

Frank Beam, chairman of the presidential search committee and of the board of trustees. "After this thorough search we came to the conclusion that we had the most qualified candidate right here at the University."

And with that, Dr. A. Frank Bonner was named on May 2nd as the 12th president of Gardner-Webb University. He was elected in a special called meeting of the board of trustees, on recommendation of a 10-member search committee.

The new president joined the Gardner-Webb administrative staff in 1987 as dean of the college. He was promoted to provost

and senior vice president in 1992. Bonner assumed the presidency on July 1, 2005.

Bonner grew up in Greenville, S.C., and graduated from Furman University. He has an M.A. degree from the University of Georgia and a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Prior to joining the Gardner-Webb administrative staff he was a faculty member and associate dean of Anderson College, Anderson, S.C.

Bonner has been active in Baptist life, the community and civic organizations most of his career. He is a member of the Rotary Club, has served on the YMCA board, the United Way, past-chair the Cleveland County Chamber, and is deacon and

Sunday school teacher in First Baptist Church, Shelby, N.C. He is also a retired colonel in the Army Reserve.

"I truly believe that the best days are ahead for Gardner-Webb," noted Bonner. "My hope is that Gardner-Webb University will become known as one of the best Christian universities in the nation."

Bonner is married to Florence "Flossie" Black, also a Furman graduate and a native of Chester, S.C. She is a retired teacher. They are parents of two adult daughters and two grandchildren.

Bonner comes from a family of distinguished educators. His father, Dr. Francis W. Bonner, is retired after many years as vice president and provost of Furman University. His mother, Nilouise Bonner, is a retired teacher.

Bonner succeeds Dr. Frank Campbell, who has been president since October 2002. "I want to thank Dr. Campbell for his support and encouragement, his wisdom and mentorship, and most of all for his friendship," noted Bonner. "In many ways I am going to seek to emulate his example."

Bonner noted that his goals for Gardner-Webb would be ongoing, working constantly to maintain and strengthen them with the assistance of faculty, staff, alumni, supporters and the community. "I am looking forward to the challenges ahead for me and for Gardner-Webb," Bonner remarked. "Some of my goals include wanting to see Gardner-Webb increase its endowment and make improvements on campus facilities and programs. I also want Gardner-Webb to continue to challenge its students academically and spiritually, and most of all I want Gardner-Webb to continue to be a place where future leaders are born."



"DR. BONNER IS THE MOST QUALIFIED AND BEST CANDIDATE TO OCCUPY THIS OFFICE. HE KNOWS AND LOVES ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE AT GARDNER-WEBB."

-DR. FRANK CAMPBELL, 11TH PRESIDENT, GWU

# SINCE WE LAST MET

## Over 700 Students Receive Degrees In Commencement Exercises

Dr. Frank Campbell gave his farewell address to 721 Centennial Seniors as he challenged them to remember "the lessons taught to them at Gardner-Webb." He encouraged them to "make wise choices and always remember their educational roots." A total of 726 degrees were conferred in two separate ceremonies on May 14 with several graduates earning dual degrees.



A Centennial documentary featuring interviews with students, alums, faculty and staff made its debut during the exercises as well. This historical documentary featured rare footage, archive photos and inspirational music to explore the traditions and heritage of Gardner-Webb. Produced by two Gardner-Webb Seniors (Chris Breedlove and Sue Rettinger), this project offered students of today a connection to students of the past.

Awards were presented to graduates exemplifying excellence in academics and citizenship. Nisreen Abu Atta of Jerusalem was presented awards for both the outstanding female graduate and scholastic achievement. The outstanding male graduate honor was presented to Timothy Joel Gribble of Richmond, Va., while a scholastic achievement award also went to Clifford David Merryman of Millington, Tenn.



## GWU Nursing Facilities Extend Beyond Campus Boundaries

Spring 2005 marked the beginning of a new phase in the historic partnership between GWU and Crawley Memorial Hospital. An open house and dedication ceremony celebrated the agreement to utilize Crawley's former emergency department for student nursing labs and clinical conferences.

The extension of the nursing facilities is a welcomed addition to accommodate the increasing number of nursing students. During the spring semester, nearly 350 students were enrolled in the School of Nursing, which includes associate's, bachelor's, and master's degree programs. The Gardner-Webb nursing program is the only one of its kind in the state of North Carolina and is fully accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC).

Gardner-Webb and Crawley Memorial have a rich history. In 1949, Royster Memorial Hospital was built on what is now the Gardner-Webb campus. As the need for a larger community hospital became apparent, The Royster building became a part of the GWU facilities and the new Crawley hospital was built.

"We are grateful to all who made this liaison possible," says Dr. Shirley Toney, dean of the School of Nursing. GWU will benefit from the enhancement of these new facilities and Crawley Hospital will benefit from GWU nursing students assisting in the care of patients.

## School of Divinity Reaccredited For Ten Years

The Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in the United States and Canada has reaccredited the Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity. After an extensive process of examination of the academic years of 2002-2004, the commission accredited the school for a period of ten years (the maximum length possible for ATS accredited schools).

"This success is a testament to the hard work, credentials, teaching ability, and scholarship of an outstanding faculty," notes Dr. Darlene J. Gravett, associate provost for schools at Gardner-Webb. The ATS Commission accredited both the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree program and the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree program (the university's first doctoral degree, launched in 2001).

Dr. Robert Canoy, Associate Dean of the Divinity School says, "The visiting committee was impressed with the school's total commitment to its mission and with the emphasis we place on the spiritual formation of our students. In other words, we are very true to our purpose statement - 'The preparation of persons for Christian ministries.'" Canoy adds, "Each M.Div. student is mentored by a faculty member in the area of concentration in which he or she is studying. The Faculty mentor goes beyond that of an academic advisor. Faculty mentors assist each student in his or her personal spiritual journey."

"This latest achievement speaks to the strength of the school and its commitment to the church and the students," adds Canoy. "The school knows who it is and what it wants to accomplish. Our dedication to training leaders for the churches of North Carolina and beyond is evident. Our strong relationships with North Carolina Baptists and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship only serve to enhance the future of this school and its students."

## PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM RECIPIENT SPEAKS AT GARDNER-WEBB



Distinguished pastor, educator and motivational speaker, Dr. Gardner C. Taylor visited Gardner-Webb in April as guest lecturer for the C. O. Greene Lecture Series.

A recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Taylor's voice has been a source of inspiration for generations of civil rights activists. He is the senior pastor emeritus of the Concord Baptist Church

civil rights leader, has been called the "dean of the nation's black preachers." Under his 42-year leadership, his church became the most prestigious black church in America. During his tenure, his leadership established several ministries, including the Concord Baptist Church Elementary School, a school designed to give children the disciplines that train them for leadership roles in society.

The lecture series is named for the Reverend and Mrs. C.O. Greene of Lawndale, N.C. Greene pastored churches in Pineville and Cary, N.C. before returning to the Gardner-Webb area to pastor New Bethel, Lawndale and Double Shoals Baptist churches. During his career he was named Rural Minister of the Year for North Carolina by Progressive Farmer and Emory University.

of Christ in Brooklyn, N.Y. Taylor, an author and early

## Gardner-Webb Honors Faculty and Staff at Annual Awards Luncheon

At Gardner-Webb University's annual awards luncheon, Apples and Accolades, the University presented honors to the educator of the year, staff and faculty members completing ten and twenty-five years of service, and male and female staff members of the year.

Dr. Tim Zehnder, associate professor of biology, was named the Excellence in Teaching Award winner. Faculty members are nominated by students for this honor and chosen by a committee of trustees, past recipients, students and a local educator.

Carolyn McKinney, assistant director of admissions for the international and transfer students, was named Female Staff member of the Year. Assistant Dean of Students and Minister to the University, Tracy Jessup was named Male Staff Member of the Year.

Outstanding staff members are selected through a nomination process from faculty and staff.

Twelve faculty and staff members were recognized with ten-year service awards; Dr. Sheri Adams, Dr. Bob Bass, Sandra Belue, Eric Brewton, Dr. Tamara Cox, Sonda Hamrick, Bruce Moore, Ruby Patterson, Mike Robuck, Rick Scruggs, Dr. Matt Theado, and Roderick Wood.

Four faculty and staff members were awarded 25-year service awards; Dr. Terry Fern, Dr. Tom Jones, Cheryl Potter and Pam Scruggs.

One retirement award was presented to long-time professor Dr. Joyce Brown. Brown served Gardner-Webb's Department of English Language and Literature for 39 years.



Carolyn McKinney, assistant director of admissions for the international and transfer students, was named Female Staff Member of the Year.



Dr. Tim Zehnder, associate professor of biology, was named the Excellence in Teaching Award winner.



Tracy Jessup, assistant dean of students and minister to the university, was named Male Staff Member of the Year.

# "TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH BIBLICAL TEACHINGS"

GWU School of Divinity Names National Scholar, Minister and Author as New Dean

"This is another giant step for our School of Divinity, and I am excited about what lies ahead for this fine university," noted Dr. Frank Campbell, president of Gardner-Webb University. Those words were shared upon the naming of Dr. Charles B. Bugg as the new dean for the Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity.

Dr. Bugg, a distinguished scholar, minister and author, began his new role on June 1st. Bugg was selected after an extensive nationwide search produced a strong field of candidates representing various phases of Baptist life. "We are delighted to have a person in this position with the character and theological caliber of Dr. Bugg. He is an educator and a preacher who can relate to all walks of life," added Campbell. In addition to being named dean, Dr. Bugg will also serve as Professor of Church Ministry and Leadership. "I was impressed with the emphasis placed on congregational enrichment at Gardner-Webb," stated Bugg. "My goal for the Divinity School is to continue to prepare ministers who are skilled in academic competencies and who are caring and informed practitioners of the ministry."

Bugg was the founder and director of the Chevis F. Horne Center for Preaching and Worship at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va, where he most recently held the distinguished Kenneth Chafin Chair - Professor of Preaching. In addition to his enormous success in the classroom, Bugg has also served in numerous well-known Baptist pastorates, including; Providence Baptist in Charlotte, N.C.; First Baptist of Augusta, Ga; and First Baptist Church, Deland, Fla. Bugg has also served as Senior Editor for the Abingdon Preaching Annual and has written numerous articles and books reflecting Christian life, biblical teachings and Baptist heritage. "The addition of Dr. Bugg to the Divinity School will only serve to enhance our reputation as a place where students gain first class theological education and practical ministerial preparation," added Dr. Campbell. "We want our divinity school students to be able to define their faith and at the same



time to be able to describe how faith in Jesus transforms lives," noted Bugg.

A native of Miami, Fla., Dr. Bugg completed his undergraduate studies at Stetson University and received his M.Div. and Ph.D. at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Known as an outstanding speaker and preacher, Bugg is constantly in demand for conferences, seminars and lecture series. His commitment to Baptist life is reflected in his extensive list of denominational activities. Dr. Bugg has served and/or chaired a number of committee appointments with the Baptist state conventions of North Carolina, Georgia and Florida. He also has a long history of civic involvement with the Rotary Club. Dr. Bugg is married to the former Dianne Poston, a nurse and native of Kentucky. Together, they have two children, Laura Beth and David.

"Dr. Bugg's addition to the School of Divinity will be an asset to students, faculty, staff and the community," added Campbell. "He is a man of character, compassion and great wisdom."

# "Deep Impact"

Outstanding Professor Leaves GWU After Nearly Four Decades of Service

"She touched lives, she opened minds and she challenged students to step out beyond their comfort zones," noted one former student of Dr. Joyce Brown, upon hearing word of her retirement. Friends, colleagues and students gathered in the Dover Campus Center on April 22 to celebrate the career of Joyce Compton Brown, one of Gardner-Webb University's longest-tenured professors.

During her retirement dinner, Gardner-Webb President Frank Bonner surprised Brown by announcing the university's decision to name the Life of the Scholar Lecture Series in her honor. Beginning in Fall '05, it will be called The Joyce Compton Brown Lecture Series.

Brown, a professor of English, retired at the end of the 2004-05 academic year, after 39 years at GWU. "I've known Joyce longer than just about anybody," said Barry Hambright, professor of political science. "We all love you. We're all going to miss seeing you everyday. We'll still see you."

Former GWU Vice President for Academic Affairs Gil Blackburn served as one of the keynote speakers at the dinner. Blackburn said Brown and her colleagues played a significant role in the school's transition from junior college to senior college in 1969. "They made Gardner-Webb the respected institution that it is

today," Blackburn said. "When all is said and done, the only thing that really matters is the good we do, and nobody has done more good at Gardner-Webb than Joyce Brown. Joyce Brown, in my opinion, is to be numbered among the top handful of movers and shakers in this institution's history."

Chris Davis, assistant professor of English, dedicated the 2005 edition of GWU's literary magazine, "The Broad River Review," to Brown, who served for 16 years as its advisor. The 2005 edition features a special reproduction of six of Brown's poems. "In looking through the (previous) issues I found some wonderful poems," Davis said. "She has been a force to be recognized over the years. Many of the best issues were directed by Joyce."

Darlene Gravett, associate provost of schools and professor of English, presented Brown with a memory book of messages from students, colleagues and friends.

Award-winning author and GWU alumnus Ron Rash videotaped a message for Brown. "I do want you to know how much of an impact you had on my life," Rash said. "You were the first person who really encouraged me, made me believe I could be a writer. Gardner-Webb has been lucky to have you. I have been lucky to have you, first as a teacher,



then as a friend."

GWU alumna Debbie Cravey traveled to Boiling Springs from Portland, Ore., to thank Brown for her dedication. "We didn't just read literature in her classroom, we explored it, we experienced it, we rooted around in it," Cravey said. "She taught us how literature affects our lives."

Cravey, an English major, said she took most of the classes Brown taught during her four years at Gardner-Webb. In fact, she said she only missed one class in four years. Cravey also served as a work-study student for Brown for several years. "She has truly been a mentor and a friend for me, and I cannot think of Gardner-Webb without thinking of Dr. Brown," Cravey said.

-Amanda Wood



On a sunny, humid August day in 2001, Jerusalem-native Nisreen Abu Ata stepped into the Gardner-Webb University family. "I remember thinking that the campus was just beautiful," the 21-year-old chemistry graduate said. "Friendly people – that's what I got from the first." Abu Ata discovered GWU through her father and uncle, both travel agents who worked with students visiting Israel.

"They used to take divinity students to the Holy Land," Abu Ata said. "That's how I heard about the school, through them. I wanted to come because of the many opportunities that it grants, the liberty and freedom that it grants, and the fact that you can be yourself and express your views, and you're not obligated to be somebody else."

Abu Ata said living in Boiling Springs changed her perspective of America. "I grew up in the city in Jerusalem," she said. "I never expected to see the rural side of America. I didn't think I'd be seeing pastures and cows and little houses and mountains. I wasn't expecting the history and culture of the South."

According to Abu Ata, experiencing cultural diversity in America taught her about understanding and choice. "The openness – embracing and being able to live together," she said. "I saw that. It's a place where you can be whatever you want to be. Americans, I think, are always trying to understand. Understanding and choice – they're going hand-in-hand to me."

Abu Ata said the international students' table in the cafeteria brings fond memories. "The past four years, it's one of my favorite places because it's all different countries coming together," Abu Ata said. "It's almost as if you don't have to travel. They bring the world to you." According to Abu Ata, the international table enriched college life by helping her learn about other cultures and allowing her to share Palestinian culture. "It's an exchange between all of us," Abu Ata said. "All of us from different countries, we find our homes with each other."

Abu Ata also remembers her professors. "They've been the greatest in the educational process," she said. "Some have encouraged me. Some have challenged me, and they allowed me to grow (as a student). Whatever idea I had they would discuss it. They let me run with it. They even opened up more worlds to me, especially the science faculty."

# Age of Discovery

## Middle Eastern Student Explores Hidden Treasures at GWU

Abu Ata's time at GWU also encouraged her to mature spiritually. "The fact that I'm able to talk about my faith with someone else has meant a great deal to me, and I think it's helped me to grow, too," she said. "The fact that my professors have also been really strong in their faith has encouraged me – the fact that you can be a scholarly person and have faith at the same time."

Abu Ata plans to pursue a career in medicine. This summer, she began medical school at Ben Gurion in Israel, in conjunction with a program at Columbia University's school of medicine. "I'll return back to Israel for three years, and then I'll come back to Columbia the last year."

Abu Ata hasn't yet decided which medical field she'll specialize in. "As my professors say, the sky's the limit," Abu Ata said. She also doesn't know if she'll work in the Middle East, although the violence in her homeland influenced her decision to be a doctor. "It started because I wanted to believe that there is hope in the place of the world where there really is no hope," Abu Ata said. "I saw medicine as the one thing in the Middle East where I could make it through the fires. And then I saw it as a challenge because I'd be meeting external and internal barriers – both from outside and within me."

Abu Ata sees her career as her chance to bring compassion to the situation in the Middle East. "I also see medicine as a social activism tool because we each want to make a difference," she said. "It's a question of how you want to make the difference. For me it's medicine. That's how I want to make the difference."

Abu Ata plans to work to improve the Palestinian healthcare system. "I think I want to do something with an international vision," Abu Ata said. "I think I want to do something with the Americans, Israelis and Palestinians, for now. The American and Israeli systems are advanced and can help Palestinian healthcare."

Abu Ata said her time at GWU has prepared her for the challenges ahead. "The experiences and encounters with other people have taught me a lot about myself – those I will take with me," Abu Ata said. "And definitely my faith." According to Abu Ata, GWU inspired her to go out into the world and build a spirit of kinship. "I've come to see the importance of having a community and the sense of community," she said. "If somebody is sick or something falls through, somebody is always trying to help that other person. I think that has given me a vision for the future."

- Amanda Wood

# Explosion International

*GWU Department Changing the World ... One Language at a Time*



A brand-new department name, international teacher assistants, a language ambush, and study abroad programs. Those are just some of the things going on in the Department of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures during this year of celebration - "2005 - The Year of the Languages."

According to associate professor Dr. Charles Moore, "the mission of teaching language is

global and inclusive of all people." The department does more than just teach students how to read and write French, Spanish, and German. They also offer courses focusing on international literature, as well as American Sign Language (ASL). New study-abroad programs in the future will carry GWU students to Asia. One student who participated in a study-abroad program in the past was overheard as saying, "this study-abroad program changed my life. When a person has an opportunity to experience a new culture firsthand, one's life is forever changed."

In other news related to the department, The American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages, the U.S. Senate, N.C. Governor Mike Easley, and GWU President Frank Campbell all officially proclaimed the year 2005 as "The Year of the Languages." In celebration, the department is planning activities for Gardner-

Webb and the community at large. This fall, a linguistic scavenger hunt and a foreign film series are in the works. Last spring, another part of this celebration included an event called "Language Ambushes." Students of ASL, French, German, and Spanish quizzed area shoppers on their second language skills.

Another program associated with this department brings international graduate students to GWU to assist with in-class instruction. Each year, teacher assistants are provided to GWU with the assistance of the I.I.E. (Institute of International Education). The IIE has a long history at GWU and was started by the efforts of former department professors Dr. Charles Andrews and Dr. Bob Morgan.

Each year, only a few are chosen out of numerous applications to participate in this program. The four teachers chosen

is an alum of this program herself. Originally from France, Davaut came to the States to work as a teacher assistant at Webster University in St. Louis.

During their time at GWU, the participants were required to meet with Dr. Davaut for weekly planning sessions, take two classes themselves per semester, and teach their own language labs. They gain both cultural and language experience while at GWU and receive certificates from the IIE at the end of their service.

Some of their fondest memories included participating in GWU events, enjoying American music, being at a Christian institution and making wonderful friendships. When it comes to the classroom setting, the assistants all say they enjoyed teaching American students, and that the experience enabled them to grow both professionally and culturally.

They also added that they will miss the day-to-day relationships with the faculty. They also appreciate the many ways the professors provided both professional supervision and constant encouragement.

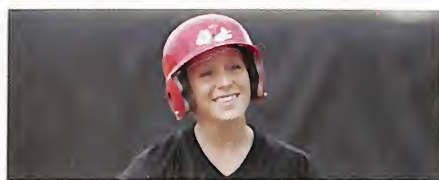
Gardner-Webb students will long remember Caroline, Yuly, Esther and Isabelle, and the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures now awaits their next group of international teaching assistants coming for the fall semester.

-Paul Foster



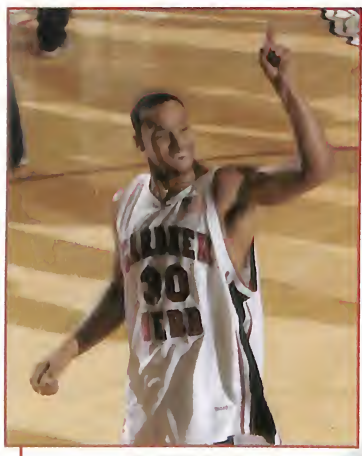
for this past year were Isabelle Fourcade of France, Esther Medelez of Mexico, and Caroline Torres and Yuly Gonzalez of Colombia. Their advisor, Assistant Professor Dr. Nathalie Davaut, serves as instructor for the group. Dr. Davaut

# BULLDOG



## SEASON OF SURPRISES

### *Men's Basketball Team Exceeds Expectations*



The men's basketball season was nothing short of a thrill ride for the Runnin' Bulldogs. It began with a blowout win over North Greenville on a Saturday night in November and didn't fully end until being snubbed by the (National Invitation Tournament) NIT selection committee on a Sunday night in early March. In between, Atlantic Sun Coach of the Year Rick

Scruggs' squad posted an 18-12 record — including a 30-point win over Conference USA member East Carolina — and captured its first-ever Atlantic Sun regular season championship. That's not too bad for a team that was selected in the preseason to finish number nine in the conference (A-Sun Coaches and Media Poll).

In their final game of the season, the Bulldogs fell short in their quest for the school's first NCAA Tournament appearance, losing 63-54 to Central Florida in the Atlantic Sun Tournament final. While Scruggs was disappointed with the loss, he took the time to appreciate the season as a whole. Scruggs said after the game, "This has been one of the most fun basketball years I've had because of the guys and their being so much fun to coach."

Gardner-Webb found itself in an unusual position after the conference tournament, waiting to see if it would land a bid to the NIT. Unfortunately for the Bulldogs, they were passed over for one of the 40 available bids. "It was exciting for us to even be considered," said Scruggs.

Next year is an exciting proposition for the 'Dogs, as all five starters and three of its top reserves will return. That group of players accounted for 88.8 percent of the Runnin' Bulldog offense last season, 83.3 percent of the team's rebounding, and 86.5 percent of the team's minutes played. Brian Bender (15.4 PPG, 6.6 rebounds), Simon Conn (14.2 PPG, 7.4 rebounds) and Atlantic Sun Defensive Player of the Year Tim Jennings (12.6 PPG, 2.6 steals) lead a strong group of veteran players that will take the floor for Scruggs.

Factor in three quality recruits, a strong returning group of players and a fan base that puts GWU on top of the A-Sun in attendance — despite the fact that Gardner-Webb is one of the

**THE MEN'S BASKETBALL SEASON WAS NOTHING  
SHORT OF A THRILL RIDE FOR THE RUNNIN' BULLDOGS.**

league's smaller schools — and another serious run at an NCAA Tournament bid in 2006 looms on the horizon. Minutes after the team's loss to Central Florida, Scruggs was already pointing to next season. "We've already got our motto for next year," he said. "It's unfinished business."

-Randy Capps '98



# Athletics

[www.gwusports.com](http://www.gwusports.com)

## THE NATURAL

### *Junior Pitcher Headed to the Big Leagues*

"I've told him before that 'you've got a gift that God dropped down to one in a million,' and there's a responsibility that goes along with that," noted GWU Head Baseball Coach Rusty Stroupe, when asked about future major leaguer Zach Ward. Ward, a junior pitcher, will soon take that gift to the big leagues after receiving a phone call on June 7 at his home in Kannapolis, N.C. That's when he learned that the Cincinnati Reds had picked him early in the Major League Baseball Draft. The 6-foot-4, 230-pound fireball pitcher was selected 92nd overall in the third round.

Ward became the most heralded pick ever for a Diamond 'Dog – surpassing former bulldog David Heffner, who was tabbed in the ninth round (200th overall pick) by the Montreal Expos in 1973.

The fact that Ward even came to GWU was nothing more than a chance encounter with GWU head baseball coach Rusty Stroupe. It was pure luck that put Stroupe at a Kannapolis/Concord American Legion game in the summer of 2002. It was also coincidence that a tall, skinny right-hander named Zach Ward was on the mound for Kannapolis that night. "The first few innings, he was dominating people. He was throwing 81-84 miles per hour, and the ball was moving all over the place," remembered Stroupe. "I thought for sure he had signed somewhere."

Ward was still available, and Stroupe decided to take a chance. "He hadn't gotten a lot of attention, but I thought by his sophomore or junior year, he might be able to get college hitters out. The rest, I guess, is history."

It was a surprise to Ward as well. "I always wanted to

play baseball at a Division-I school," Ward said, "and he (Stroupe) just showed up one day and made me an offer. It was a miracle or more of a blessing really."

Ward's crowning achievement came on February 19, 2005 in Rock Hill, S.C., as he struck out 11 batters in a complete-game no hitter vs. Akron. That was the first no hitter in 31 seasons at Gardner-Webb.

For his three-year career, the former Kannapolis A.L. Brown High School star made his mark in the GWU record books, finishing first in career strikeouts (284), strikeouts per nine innings (10.8), and most strikeouts in a season (127). During his time with the Diamond 'Dogs, Ward also picked up several notable wins over major Division-I opponents, including top-30 programs Georgia, Florida, University of Central Florida, Florida Atlantic and Troy State.

"He's handled it all very well. He's very even-keel about this, and he's not impressed with himself," Stroupe says. "He understands that with this gift comes a responsibility to give back, and he's already doing that. I truly believe that in the future he will give back to society and to baseball as much as has been given to him."

-Randy Capps '98 contributed to this story



# THE DOCTOR IS IN

For Greta Setzer Harper '80 - Saving Children is Just Another Day at the Office

Greta Setzer Harper's white lab coat stands out against the bright red, blue and green shapes on the walls of the children's hospital at Palmetto Health Richland in Columbia, S.C.

As the Gardner-Webb University alumna makes her rounds in the pediatric intensive care unit, she still displays the determination and drive of a Bulldog. Harper, now a pediatric intensivist and the first black, female chief of staff at Palmetto Health Richland, decided to pursue a career in medicine while earning a chemistry degree at Gardner-Webb College. "Basically, you can kind of think of me as a high-tech pediatrician," Harper said. According to the hospital's web site, Harper oversees the care of more than 82,000 infants, children and adolescents each year. "I see a spectrum of kids," Harper said. "I also take care of children that just need a little help to get better."

Harper graduated as valedictorian from Bessemer City High School in Bessemer City, N.C. in 1976. She says basketball led her to Gardner-Webb. "As a high school senior, my high school coach, Coach Dixon, and I made a trip to Gardner-Webb," the former Bulldog point guard said. Harper says she enjoyed the family-like atmosphere at the school. "I guess I just enjoyed college life."

During her first days as a chemistry major, Harper thought she would end up doing laboratory work. "I didn't know that I wanted to be a doctor for a while," Harper said. Harper decided to pursue a career in medicine after her sister introduced her to a



University of Florida and returned to Palmetto Health Richland as the hospital's first pediatric intensivist. Harper is board-certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and serves as associate professor of pediatrics at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine.

Palmetto Health Richland elected Harper chief of staff in 2005. "My biggest challenge at this point is the sleep deprivation aspect of it," Harper said.

"The public only has a birds-eye view of what it really takes to take care of a sick patient in terms of

resources." Harper was recently honored by the March of Dimes for her work in pediatric medicine.

Harper says she finds her greatest joy in her two daughters, Alanna and Arielle.

"I think of my kids and recognize that having healthy, happy children is a true blessing in life," Harper said. "I'm thankful for my supportive husband, James."

Harper says she wishes her alma mater success in the future. "I wish that Gardner-Webb has continued success with educating students and setting their graduates up for success in life."

-Amanda Wood

**Harper said her professors at GWU helped her reach her goal of becoming a doctor. "I walked away from Gardner-Webb prepared for medical school."**

black doctor from Virginia. "It was the first time I saw anyone who looked like me as a physician," Harper said. "That was an insightful encounter."

Harper said her professors at GWU helped her reach her goal of becoming a doctor. "I walked away from Gardner-Webb prepared for medical school," Harper said. "Also, socially, I was prepared for life in general. Spiritually my life was indeed solidified during my time there, as well."

After graduating at the top of her class in 1980, Harper attended the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in Chapel Hill. She completed her residency at the University of South Carolina, working at Palmetto Health Richland.

After her residency, Harper completed her fellowship at the

# Band of Brothers



## GWU Alum Fulfills Dream by Writing Civil War Novel Based on True Events



Civil War photo courtesy of Doug Cooper

As he spent time researching for his honors' thesis paper, Gardner-Webb Alumnus Wes Barkley ('00) discovered more than the history of Catawba County. He discovered a series of novels – "The Anderson Chronicles."

Fascinated by the Civil War, Barkley wanted to know why 126 men from Catawba County traded their homes and families for battlefields. "It wasn't about the big issues," Barkley said. "They joined up because they didn't want to be left behind." They joined the war because their brothers, cousins and neighbors joined the war, according to Barkley.

After Barkley turned in his thesis, his GWU North Carolina history professor told him it would make a great novel. Barkley took her advice. Barkley, a political science and history major released his first novel, "How the Gallant Fell," in 2004, and he is finishing two other novels to complete the series.

"The Gardner-Webb experience in several ways impacted the book," Barkley said. Barkley, a former GWU baseball player, wrote his friends, coaches and Diamond 'Dog teammates into the novels. "A lot of this ties into how Gardner-Webb was, and the roommates I had, and the friends I had, and the baseball team I had, and the way we felt about each other," Barkley said.

He created five fictional brothers, modeled after four of his GWU friends and his own brother. "They have impacted my life in a certain way, so I wanted to show their characteristics, what they were made of," Barkley said. "If I had five brothers, I'd want them to be these guys, and if I was going to war, I'd want these guys to go with me."

Barkley's novel centers on the five Anderson brothers and the effects of war on friends and family, he said. "Once they (the Anderson brothers) join up (with the Confederate Army), it's a battle to stay

together," Barkley said. "It's about family."

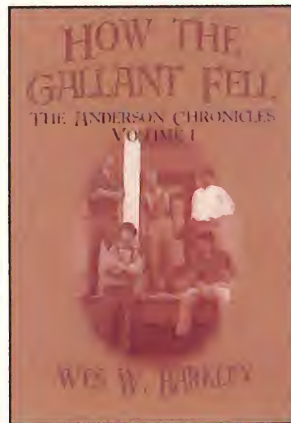
Barkley said writing about historical events presents certain challenges. "The hardest part about doing a civil war novel is being accurate to the Civil War," Barkley said. "The book is about the real company of men." Barkley's friends and fellow historians help him polish the historical details in the trilogy. As a part of his research for the second novel, Barkley and his friends traveled to an actual battlefield and found the spot where the Catawba Company fought. "I got to walk in the shoes of the Catawba men – 126 of them," Barkley said.

In his trilogy, Barkley plans to portray the actual battles the Catawba Company fought in – like Fredericksburg and Antietam. "The only negative to the story was that they were also at Gettysburg," Barkley said. "And anybody that knows the history of Gettysburg knows that a lot of people didn't come back from that." According to Barkley, the Catawba Company entered the Battle of Gettysburg with 117

men, and only 12 men survived the battle. "The company didn't survive past Gettysburg," Barkley said.

For that reason, Barkley decided to write only three novels. "I haven't written the ending to the third yet. I'm having a hard time doing that because I am so attached to the characters and don't really know how I want to end it."

Volume two of The Anderson Chronicles, "Upon Fields of Fire," is scheduled for release this summer with the final chapter of the trilogy scheduled for a 2006 release. More information is available on Barkley and The Anderson Chronicles online at [www.publishedauthors.net/wesbarkley](http://www.publishedauthors.net/wesbarkley).



- Amanda Wood

# Celebration of



Gardner-Webb Junior College alumnus Robert Crapps drove to Boiling Springs from Greenville, S.C. on April 16 to celebrate Gardner-Webb University's Centennial Weekend. After watching the filling of GWU's centennial

time capsule, Crapps

joined members of Gardner-Webb University's Half-Century Club for lunch in O. Max Gardner Hall.

Crapps earned the first O. Max Gardner

scholarship and graduated from GWJC in 1944. The retired theology professor said he hopes Gardner-Webb University will continue to put students first as it moves forward. "I would hope that it would maintain its commitment to high academic standards and its vision of what's best for each student," Crapps said.

At the Half-Century Club luncheon, GWU President Frank Campbell told alumni the school has a bright future. "Only the best is yet still to come," Campbell said. "This school is here because God wanted it to be. That's the reason we've survived. It is a great place to be." Campbell, who retired July 1,

said in the future numbers will grow and needed facilities will be built. "Many wonderful things will happen," Campbell said. "Can



# the Century

you imagine what Gardner-Webb will be like 25 years from now?"

After the luncheon, GWU alumni, students, faculty, staff and the community enjoyed inflatable games on the quad, train rides, horse and buggy rides, face painting, scavenger hunts, science experiments and performances by local show choirs and dance groups. GWU's fine arts department also hosted a kiln opening and pottery sale in the new art facility. Later in the afternoon, Mack the Bulldog invited everyone to GWU's official 100th birthday party on the quad. After eating cake, the crowd enjoyed concerts by the GWU Jazz Band and FlintHill, a local bluegrass band.

On Sunday morning, GWU held a worship service in Dover Chapel to celebrate God's presence in the life of

the university. Later that day, guests gathered in O. Max Gardner Hall for the Centennial Art Exhibit featuring the work of "Centennial Artist" Robert Doares. The grand finale of GWU's centennial weekend came on Sunday afternoon, as GWU's orchestra and choir joined guest performers from the community for the centennial concert in the Paul Porter Arena.

- Amanda Wood



# Friday Night Lights

*Championship Football Coaches Acknowledge GWU For Successful Careers*

There's nothing quite like the atmosphere on a fall Friday night at high school football stadiums throughout the nation. In the Gardner-Webb region, there are strong winning traditions among many of the high schools. The kind of gridiron battles and traditions that make it hard to find a good seat if you don't arrive early. The best part about this winning formula is that many of these successful head coaches attended Gardner-Webb. So grab your blow horns, pom-pom's, and football gear, as we introduce you to six state championship coaches, who have fond memories of their days in the classroom and on the field in Runnin' Bulldog Country.

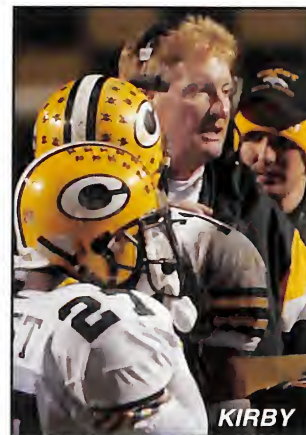
We begin in the university's home county of Cleveland, where currently three of the four high schools have head coaches who are GWU alums. At Shelby High School, head coach Chris Norman ('84) is in his 21st year of coaching and 15th for the Golden Lions. Coach Norman became head coach in 1998 after serving as defensive coordinator. In his very first year as head coach, his team won the State 2-A High School



Football Championship. In his tenure with the school, Shelby also won a state championship in 1987 and competed in the state finals in 1988, 1997 and 2004. Norman played football under Tom Moore from 1980-84 and graduated with a degree in physical education. Norman's favorite GWU memories were playing with guys like Quarterback, Chip Stewart, Charlie Harbison, and Carroll McCray, who now serves as the head football coach

at Austin Pea University in Clarksville, Tenn. He says with a smile, "I'm always proud to tell everyone how much Gardner-Webb means to me."

Coach Roy Kirby ('79) is head coach of the Crest Chargers, where he's held the position since 1997. Kirby has made five trips in all to the state championship. As a



defensive coordinator, when the Chargers won it all in 1994 and 96, and most recently when his teams won back-to-back titles in 2003-04. Kirby believes in passing on a simple but effective message to his players. The message is to stick together like family and be able to count on each other, on and

off the field. Kirby gives credit to the Gardner-Webb coaches who influenced him with that same message – coach Oval Jaynes and assistant coach Mike Bogart. Kirby graduated with degrees in Business Administration and Physical Education. Kirby was also a part of the team that set a scoring record when Gardner-Webb beat Lenoir-Rhyne 76 to 6 in 1976.

Also from Cleveland County, comes Burns High School head football coach Ron Greene ('73). Coach Greene played under GWU coaches Norman Harris and George Litton in the early 70's. While at GWU, Greene was not only playing football for the Bulldogs, but he also found time to get married, get a job and excel in classes. Greene was a graduate of Gardner-Webb's first four-year class in 1973.

The biggest thing that stands out to him about the GWU



days – was first and foremost the education. Greene says “it was and still is a great place to prepare future teachers and leaders for tomorrow.” Under the direction of Coach Greene, the Burns

Bulldogs captured the 1994 State 3-A championship, and they always seem to have a team in a position to be a state championship contender year after year.

At South Point High in Belmont, N.C., former GWU product John Devine ('95) is headed into his 15th year of coaching at the school.

He began there as an assistant coach in 1990 and became head coach in 1995. Since that time Devine's Red Raiders have been on quite a roll.

To date they have clinched six straight conference titles and won the 2003 State 3-A Championship. In his



GWU football days, Devine was a player under the coaching talents of Oval Jaynes, Billy Kinard, and Tom Moore. Devine graduated with a degree in Physical Education and credits the coaches, staff and faculty at GWU with preparing him for this success. That list includes assistant coach Kenny Sanford and professors Dr. Gil Blackburn, Dr. Dee Hunt, Dr. Lonnie Proctor, and Dr. Nell Griggs.

In upstate South Carolina, if you don't attend a football game on a Friday night, then you're not a native of the area. Two long-time winning programs, Gaffney and Spartanburg, continue that legacy today. Both schools are not only big

rivals, but are coached by GWU alums, as well.

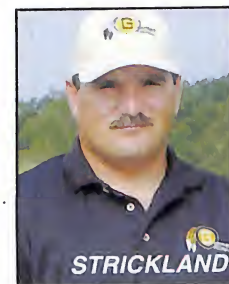
Doc Davis ('75) has been the head coach for the



Spartanburg Vikings since 1990. Davis has more current championships than anybody else on our list. They include five Division I-Big 16 4-A State Titles between 1991-2001. Davis says his four years at GWU under head coach George Litton helped him realize that

he wanted to be a coach himself. “I soaked up everything I could, just like a sponge.” He continues to carry Gardner-Webb's message of hard work and perseverance with him to this day.

Just off I-85 lies the land of the world-famous giant peach of Gaffney, South Carolina, home to Coach Phil Strickland ('78) of Gaffney High School. The legendary coaches Oval Jaynes and Billy Kinard also coached



Strickland. Strickland says, “I learned from a lot of great people (at GWU) that helped to make me a better person.” In 2003, Strickland's Gaffney squad captured the Division I-Big 16 4-A State Championship. This fall, Strickland is beginning his third year as head coach.

These are but a few of the head coaches around the country crediting their time at GWU as pivotal in their lives. All of them believe that teamwork and discipline along with a good education are a keys for being successful in whatever you do. Something they all agree was learned right here on this very campus.

-Paul Foster

# Class Notes

**BROOKS E. PIERCY, FORMER** member of Board of Advisors, was awarded North Carolina's highest civilian honor, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. He was recognized for 41 years of teaching and leadership in the agricultural industry.

**CARLISLE HOSTETTER '55 A.A.** is a retired principal having served Marion Senior High School in Virginia. He also served as basketball coach and athletic director for Lees-McCrae College for 13 years in addition to coaching basketball in Virginia for 16 years.

**DILLARD HIATT '57 A.A.** is a retired public school teacher having taught humanities and English.

**JUDITH M. FLAKE TAIT '62 A.A.** retired May 2005 as a teacher with Duval County Schools. She and her husband, Jim, will spend half the year in Jacksonville, Fla. and half the year in Wadesboro, N.C.  
flyingduet@hotmail.com

**DREW BRIDGES '67 A.A.** announces the graduation of his daughter, Suzanna, from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts with honors in theater and the University's Scholar's Program.  
phrendrew@aol.com

**REG ALEXANDER '71 B.S.** has been named citizen of the year by Region C, a four-county law enforcement association. As owner of Regal Ventures, he has produced the passion play, Crosswalk. He also does graphic design, plans an annual youth retreat in Florida and schedules nationwide ministry events.

**GARY SIMPKINS '71 B.S.** was honored for 33 years of service to the state of South Carolina. He is a counselor in the S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department's Rock Hill Office.



**GEORGE "BERT" WEATHERS '71 B.S.** was honored for 31 years of state service to South Carolina. He is a section supervisor with Disability Determination Services in Greenville.



**ROBERT GRANT '73 B.A.** has completed FCBA and CCBA certification through the National Association of Church Business Administration and the Southern Baptist Church Business Administration. He is the director of church administration and buildings for the South Carolina Baptist State Convention.  
robertgrnat@scbaptist.org

**JERRY COLEMAN WHITE '74 B.A.** has been elected president of the South Carolina Baptist State Convention. He is the pastor of Riverside Baptist Church.  
jwhite@riversidebaptistchurch.net

**RICK FISHER '75 B.A.** has been appointed to the board of trustees for North Greenville College. He is pastor of Lexington Baptist Church in South Carolina.

**RICHARD "RIC" WALTERS '75 B.S.** is the food service director for TAP-Headstart.  
ricwal@aol.com

**LINWOOD CRAWFORD '76 B.S.** has been appointed assistant superintendent for Rutherford County Schools. He was the former principal at Harris Elementary School.

**LA SANDRA STRICKLAND GRIMSLEY '77 B.A.** is a media specialist for W.M. Anderson Primary.  
lasan@ftc-i.net

**MIKE BRIGGS '79 B.S.** has been named head football coach at Ashbrook High School. He has coached high school football for over 23 years.

**BENJAMIN WILLIAM BARR, JR. '80 B.A.** is working for Katahdin Times Weekly Newspaper in Millinocket, Maine.  
nap@midmaine.com

**ED DENTON '80 B.A.** is serving as pastor of Durham Memorial Baptist Church.

**KATHERINE HARDY-PENDERGRASS '81 B.A.** is serving as president of Zeta Mu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She is also president of the KELL Group which specializes in professional and personal development.

**CAROLYN BRATTON '82 B.S.** is serving as pastor of Shiloh AME Zion Church. Under her leadership, the church began a soup kitchen in 2000 and has started exercise classes for adults and Bible studies for kids. Plans are being made to expand the soup kitchen around East Gaston.

**CALVIN FRADY '82 B.A., '95 M.A.** is serving as the associational missionary for the South Roanoke Baptist Association.  
cpfrady@cox.net

**ROBERT LOUIS HUNTER, JR. '82 B.A.** was the author of the family Bible study series for the Biblical Recorder, October-December 2004.  
hunterclan@gsiwave.com

**BARBARA BLACKBURN '83 B.S.** has been elected president of the National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education. In this position, she will serve as chair of the board of directors and provide leadership during the two-year term.

**OLIVIA GWALTNEY RIDDLE '83 B.S.** has been serving as principal of Lake Norman Elementary for five years. She will serve as principal of a new elementary school, Woodland Heights Elementary, opening August 2005.

**NEAL ALEXANDER, JR. '84 B.S.** has been awarded the W.S. Lee Leadership Award by Duke Power. The award honors a Duke Power employee who demonstrates outstanding leadership on the job and in the community. In addition, the recipient is awarded to an employee who inspires others to greater levels of achievement. Alexander has worked for Duke Power for over 38 years and is the vice president of human resources.

**JEFF POWELL '84 B.S.** has been named as the operations manager for WGWG 88.3 FM, Boiling Springs, N.C. He recently served three years as station manager for WSGE, Gastonia, N.C. He

is married to Lydia Powell '91. The couple reside in Boiling Springs, N.C. with their children (Jacob, Sarah and Leah).

**J. MICHAEL HEGARTY '85 B.S.** is the director of sales for Comag Marketing Group.  
mhegarty@i-cmg.com

**RUSSELL SHEAD '85 B.S.** recently released his second instrumental guitar compact disc, "Strings of Faith," a collection of classical hymns arranged for solo guitar. This project and his Christmas release are available at [www.russellshead.com](http://www.russellshead.com)  
rs-guitar@att.net

**BRENDA CHILDERS '86 B.S.** has earned a Master of Science in Adult Education from Appalachian State University.

**JULIE MITCHELL '86 B.S.** is a sales executive with Nortel.  
mitchell@notel.com

**RANDY ROGERS '86 B.S.** has been promoted to regional manager for Carolina Farm Credit. He will supervise the Credit's 10 most western branches.

**JOHN SINGLETON '86 B.A., '88 M.A.** has been named Academic Director of New Leaf Academy of North Carolina by the Aspen Education Group. The Academy is an all girls' special

education/emotional growth boarding school in Hendersonville, N.C. [jsingleton@newleafnorthcarolina.com](mailto:jsingleton@newleafnorthcarolina.com)

**JOYCE LAIL SMITH '86 B.S.** has earned national board certification. She is a teacher at Cramerton Middle School.

**JENNIFER MINCEY STEPP '86 B.S.** and Kevin Stepp welcome the newest members of their family, Joseph Alexander (3) and Julia Grace (9 months). The Stepps adopted the children from Vladivostok, Russia. They join older siblings Lauren (15), Patrick (11) and Blair (7).  
steppfam86@aol.com

## GWU ALUMNI ATTEND A REAL ICEBREAKER



*Gardner-Webb University alumna Janet Elliott took a walk down memory lane on Feb. 25. Elliott joined other GWU alumni for dinner and a hockey game at the Bi-Lo Center in Greenville, S.C. "I really enjoyed it," Elliott said. Elliott also got to share this experience with a future alum, her son, Kevin, currently an MBA student at GWU. "I'm proud to be here with her," Elliott said.*

*The event served as a time for Alumni, students, and the remaining Gardner-Webb family to come together for fun, fellowship and a few fistfights. GWU Baseball Coach Rusty Stroupe was*

*the featured speaker during the pre-hockey match dinner. "Gardner-Webb alumni are as passionate about their institution as any group I've ever met," Stroupe said. "They feel some connection here that they're very proud of. I'm proud to work at Gardner-Webb because I get to experience some of that same passion."*

*Gardner-Webb students Kathryn Salmon and Jessica Adams also attended the hockey game. "I think the alumni love to do this," Salmon said. "They're so nice. They're really easy to talk to." Adams also enjoyed her time getting to know the alumni. "I think it's great to meet some of the alumni," Adams said. "The fact that they were willing to come to something like this shows they enjoyed the school they went to, and they want to (continue to) be a part of it."*

*If you would like more information about upcoming Alumni events and activities, call the office of Alumni Relations at 704-406-4255.*

- Amanda Wood

**KENNETH KESSLER '87 B.A.** is now serving as the senior leadership consultant for associational partnerships and the senior coach for Lake Hickory Training Center for the Baptist State Convention of N.C.

**KARA ENGLAND LUCKADOO '87 B.S.N. AND LEE ANDREW LAIL '97 B.S.** were married on November 20, 2004. She is a school nurse for Rutherford County Schools. He is a history teacher and football and track coach at East Rutherford High School. The couple resides in Ellenboro, N.C.

**WES WESTMORELAND '88 B.A.** received the Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce in January. His company has received national recognition for its printing and state-of-the-art equipment.

**AMY DELLINGER '89 B.S.** has been inducted into the Cherryville Hall of Fame for her standout career in basketball and softball at Cherryville High School during the 1980's. She has coached at the high school and college levels. She is now assistant principal at South Rowan High School.

**JOEY ASHLEY '91 B.A.** and Victoria announce the birth of their fourth child, Alexander Ashley, born November 24, 2004. Joey is the director of sales for Belcan's Engineering Software Division.

**ANNE MARIE BAME '91 B.S.** recently recorded her first gospel album, "From the Heart." She has started a solo ministry. You can check out her web site at [www.annemamemusic.com](http://www.annemamemusic.com) [annemamemusic@bellsouth.net](mailto:annemamemusic@bellsouth.net)

**MOLLY DUNCAN BLANTON '91 B.S.** was selected to serve as the curriculum coordinator for Cleveland County Schools. She has taught kindergarten since 1991 at Jefferson Elementary School. She is a national board certified teacher. She and her husband, Kevin, have a daughter, Adeline (9) and a son, Nicolas (6). [blanton@clevelandcountyschools.org](mailto:blanton@clevelandcountyschools.org)

**MAHALAKSHMI S. GINGRICH '91 B.S.** has earned a Ph.D. in curriculum and teaching in December 2004 from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

**JENNY OUTLAW '91 B.S.** has retired after holding various positions at Richmond Community College. During her time at the school she served as secretary for evening faculty, worked in the registrar's office and taught ESL classes among other positions.

**JACK RICHARDS '91 B.S.** and Kristin Richards, along with big brother Rex, are pleased to announce the birth of Romey Emily, born April 1, 2005. [jackrichardsjr@excite.com](mailto:jackrichardsjr@excite.com)

**E.V. "VAN" TATE '91 B.S.** is serving as a master state trooper in Mount Airy, N.C.

**SHERRI WEEKS '91 B.S.** has earned National Board Certification. She is a school counselor in King's Mountain, N.C.

**STEPHANIE LAUREN BURGESS '92 A.D.N., '01 B.S.N. AND CHARLES DAVID DOWNEY '00 B.S.** were married on October 2, 2004. She is a registered nurse at Rutherford Hospital. He works for Turner Trucking Company. The couple resides in Forest City, N.C.

**REV. ERIK CUMMINGS '92 B.A.** was honored in December 2004 with a Pastor's Appreciation Celebration for three years of ministry to New Life Baptist Church of Carol City, Fla.

**MICHAEL DUNCAN '92 B.S.** joined the Lancaster Fire Department in April 2004. He graduated from the South Carolina Fire Academy in October. He and his wife, Wendy, have two sons, Rutledge (12) and Grady (8). [Fireguy893@compodium.net](mailto:Fireguy893@compodium.net)

**ELIZABETH ANN COUCH JORDAN '92 B.S.** is currently watching after her father. She has three children. Marshall (16) will play on a varsity football team in the fall. Tabitha (14) graduates from the 8th grade this year. Mary Katherine (12) plays softball and loves to sing.

**MICHAEL CAIN '93 B.S.** is the senior children's court attorney for the New Mexico Children Youth and Family Department in Las Cruces, N.M. He has been employed since 2001 as an assistant district attorney with the Office of the Third Judicial District Attorney. Mike graduated from Regent University School of Law in 1999. He and his wife, Leanne, have one daughter. [gomikie@earthlink.net](mailto:gomikie@earthlink.net)

**CRYSTAL DAWN GOSNELL '93 B.S.** and David Partee Walker were married on December 18, 2004. She is the human resource manager for Statesville Auto Auction. He is a technician for Thor-Lo. The couple resides in Statesville, N.C.

**KAREN LYNN HOGAN '93 B.S.** and Shane Alan Cagle were married on December 4, 2004. She is a senior accountant for Maxton C. McDowell, CPA. He is employed by the North Carolina Highway Patrol Communications Division in Greensboro. The couple resides in Asheboro, N.C.

**MARY WRIGHT '93 B.S.** has released a book entitled "Justice For All." The fictional story concerning the triumph of good over evil takes place on the campus of GWU. [klingonsfirst@yahoo.com](mailto:klingonsfirst@yahoo.com)

**NOEL T. MANNING, II '94 B.A.** has been named as the Director of University and Media Relations at Gardner-Webb. He is married to Beth Lamb Manning '89 B.S. The couple resides in Boiling Springs, N.C. and are parents to two children (Kathryn and Thomas). [ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu)

**LAURA LYNN MARSH '94 A.D.N.** and Michael Lee Agerton were married on December 18, 2004. She is a nurse with Gaston County Mental Health. He is employed by the Gaston County Sheriff's Department. The couple lives in Gastonia, N.C.

**BEVERLY COOPER WATSON '94 B.S. AND MICHAEL CHAD WATSON '94 B.S.** announce the birth of Caroline Lily, born October 14, 2004. She joins older brother, Cooper (3).

**JENNIFER MITCHELL SHELLEY '95 B.S.** has earned national board certification. She is a kindergarten teacher at Weaverville Primary School. [Jennifer.shelley@bscemail.org](mailto:Jennifer.shelley@bscemail.org)

**CHRIS SLOAN '95 B.S. '97 M.B.A.** is serving as the postmaster for the USPS in Earl, N.C. He started the position on February 19, 2005.

**JIM DAVIDSON '96 B.A., '99 M.Div.** has returned from serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom II from February 2003 to January 2005. He was the chaplain for the 1/252 Armor. [jimdavidson777@aol.com](mailto:jimdavidson777@aol.com)

**JASON KERR '96 B.A. AND CINDY KERR '96 B.A.** announce the birth of Brendan Matin born January 31, 2005. He joins older brother Aedan.



**MICHELLE NORMAN '96 B.A.** see Matthew Norman '97 B.A. listing.

**JASON TY EAKER '96 B.S.** and Deborah Lee Tessner were married on January 29, 2005. He works for the Employment Commission. She is employed by Westview Baptist Church Day Care. The couple resides in Shelby, N.C.

**JODY WRIGHT '96 B.S.** is serving as the director of the Forest City Parks and Recreation Department. He previously served as the interim recreation director.

**DENISE R. ADAMS '97 B.S.** and Junhuung Lee announce the birth of Jadon Lee, born October 21, 2004. She earned her ESL teaching certificate in 2004. The family resides in Irvine, Calif. [deadamsjun@yahoo.com](mailto:deadamsjun@yahoo.com)

**TIMOTHY CHILTON '97 B.A.** and Holly Heath were married on January 1, 2005. He is pursuing a bachelor of science degree. She is a student at Southeastern Baptist Seminary. The couple resides in Raleigh, N.C.

**AMY CARROLLE POPLIN DUNATOV '97 B.S.** and Christopher announce the birth of their first child, Joseph Christian, born February 17, 2005. [acpoplin@yahoo.com](mailto:acpoplin@yahoo.com)

**JASON FARR '97 B.A. AND JENNIFER FARR '98 B.S.** announce the birth of a daughter, Abby Michelle, born November 30, 2004. [jasonfarr@charter.net](mailto:jasonfarr@charter.net)

**LEE ANDREW LAIL '97 B.S.** see Kara England Luckadoo '87 listing.

**DERINA DEE MORRISON '97 B.S.** and Kevin Brent Pyles were married on November 11, 2004. She is a personal trainer and kickboxing instructor. He is the owner of American Martial Arts Academy. The couple own 24/7 Fitness Center and reside in Winston-Salem, N.C.



## A CENTURY OF HER OWN

Gardner-Webb's oldest living alumna, Edna Wright Washburn Jenkins, will celebrate her 107th birthday this summer.

Jenkins spent three years at Boiling Springs High School during World War I. "Oh she loved that," said Jenkins' daughter-in-law, Betty Washburn. "She had a grand time."

Jenkins set tables in the dining room before each meal to pay part of her way through school.

After graduating from BSHS, Jenkins took a job teaching grades four through seven at Shanghi School. After a year, she moved back to her home in Double Springs to teach at Double Springs School.

Jenkins married D. Purvis Washburn in 1920. For their honeymoon, the couple traveled by train to Charlotte where they spent one night.

"Mother depended on Dad a lot till after he died," said Jenkins' oldest son, Gene Washburn. "Then after he died, she just kind of took over and became independent. She's been in charge ever since."

Jenkins raised four children and kept her farm alive during the Depression. "She just did what she had to do," Betty Washburn said. "That lady could work. She could work like everything."

Betty Washburn said she and her mother-in-law canned 100 cans of green beans one season. In addition to canning, she took joy in cleaning her house and growing vegetable and flower gardens.

"She enjoys her life, I think," Betty Washburn said. "She just does what she has to do without any complaints. She is a good Christian woman, too. That is really important to her."

Jenkins also loved to cook. "She was an excellent cook," Gene Washburn said. "She was famous for her apple pies."

-Amanda Wood

# UNDERGRADUATE AND GOAL PROGRAM ALUMNI

**MATTHEW NORMAN '97 B.A. AND MICHELLE NORMAN '96 B.A.** announce the birth of their second child, Aaron Matthew, born January 17, 2005. The parents have been serving on the Global Service Corp through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Matthew is now serving as the Associate Coordinator for Affiliate and Career Selection for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. [michelleandmatt@yahoo.com](mailto:michelleandmatt@yahoo.com)

**MICHAEL G. SMITH '97 B.S., '03 M.B.A.** and Amanda were married on April 3, 2003. He is a branch

manager for Citi Financial. She is a recreational therapist for Gaston Memorial Hospital. They reside in Lawndale, N.C.

[mgsmith@carolina.rr.com](mailto:mgsmith@carolina.rr.com)

**CRYSTAL DAWN BUMGARDNER '98 B.S.** and John Daniel Falls were married on October 23, 2004. She is budget analyst for the City of Gastonia. The couple resides in Smyrna, S.C. [crystaldf@cityofgastonia.com](mailto:crystaldf@cityofgastonia.com)

**CAROL ANN HOARD '98 M.Div.** and Joel announce the birth of Willis Phillips born April 17, 2005. He joins big brother Lavery.

**CARLTON HURT '98 B.A.** won first place for sports columns and third place for sports feature writing from the North Carolina Press Association. He is a staff sports writer for the Lexington Dispatch.

**ANGELA MILLER '98 B.S.** has signed a contract to write a serial for [keepitcoming.net](http://keepitcoming.net). The serial is entitled "Fate Steps In."

[Millerfamof5@hotmail.com](mailto:Millerfamof5@hotmail.com)

**JENNIFER TRUNCER BRYAN '99 B.S.** and Mark Bryan welcomed their daughter, Ella Belle, on September 2, 2003.

**DANIEL CALL '99 B.A., '04 M.Div.** has graduated from Commissioned Officers' Training at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala. He began his career duty assignment as a chaplain at Tyndall Air Force Base. On December 16, 2004, he was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the Air Force.

**MEREDITH CORNETTE CONFER '99 A.D.N., '01 B.S.N.** is a registered nurse at Forsyth Medical Center. [mer\\_rn@yahoo.com](mailto:mer_rn@yahoo.com)

**SHELLY HARTLEY '99 B.S.** is the evidence technician for Caldwell County. In the position, she collects evidence from crime scenes for the sheriff's office.

**JONATHAN BRAD HUSS '99 B.A., '05 M.B.A. AND JADA ANNE HIPPI '02 B.A.** were married on December 11, 2004. She works at Tryon Elementary School. The couple resides in Kings Mountain, N.C.

**CHRISTIE CAROL JENKINS "C.J." '99 B.S.** and David Zimmerman were married in June 2004. She works with the deaf/hearing impaired. He is a pastor. The couple resides in Columbia, S.C. [cjsneezie@hotmail.com](mailto:cjsneezie@hotmail.com)

**TANYA RENEE GRAYBILL '99 B.S.** and Kevin announce the birth of their first child, Tyler Ray, born November 15, 2004. [Kstephens5@nc.rr.com](mailto:Kstephens5@nc.rr.com)

**CHRISTINA WHITEHOUSE SUGGS '99 B.A.** and Matthew announce the birth of their daughter, Kara Josephine, born February 21, 2005.



**KEVIN WATSON, '99 B.S.,** see Nicole Gardner Watson '00 B.S. listing.

**JAIME MICHAEL BOYLES '00 B.S.** and Stephen Wayne Honbaier II were married on March 5, 2005. She is employed by Lincoln County Schools. He is employed by Clark Tire and Auto. The couple resides in Crouse, N.C.

**CHARLES DAVID DOWNEY '00 B.S.** see Stephanie Lauren Burgess '92 A.D.N. listing

**TABITHA MARIE GOFORTH '00 B.A.** and Jeffrey Head were married on December 4, 2004. She is a workforce specialist for Upstate One Stop Career Center. He is a laser technician with Progressive Screens, Inc. The couple resides in Gaffney, S.C. [reebow33@hotmail.com](mailto:reebow33@hotmail.com)

**AMBER MICHELLE GOODE '00 B.S.** and Jonathon Martin Proctor were married on December 11, 2004. She is a CBS professional with Unique Beginnings in Shelby. He is employed by Allied-Barton Protective Services. The couple resides in Shelby, N.C.

**CRISTEN WATSON '00 A.D.N. AND JOSHUA WATSON '00 B.S.** announce the birth of their daughter, Lily Kathryn, born January 27, 2005. [jandcwatson@adelphia.net](mailto:jandcwatson@adelphia.net)

**NICHOLE GARDNER WATSON '00 B.S. AND KEVIN WATSON '99 B.S.** announce the birth of their son, Kolby Michael, born December 27, 2004.

**STEPHANIE LAUREN BURGESS '01 B.S.N.** see Stephanie Lauren Burgess '92 A.D.N. listing

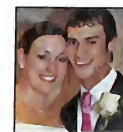
**ROGER DECATO '01 B.S.** has been promoted to the position of bank officer for Peoples Bank. He previously served as a business development officer with the bank.

**DEBORA GILBERT '01 B.S.N. '03 M.S.N.** has received National Board Certification for School Nurses. She is a school nurse with Polk County Schools and is the chairman of the Polk County Schools Health Advisory Committee.

**LAURA KING '01 B.S.** has been named the director of 4-H and youth development for the North Carolina Cooperative Extension's Union County Center. She previously served as the director of the development fund for Mayland Community College.

**JAMES CHESLEY MAXWELL, III '01 B.A.** is working at the Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind in the optical laboratory. He is hoping to become a licensed optician. He is living in Kernersville, N.C. [JCM1977@triad.rr.com](mailto:JCM1977@triad.rr.com)

**MARGARET CALEY PARKER '01 B.S., '03 M.B.A.** and Nathan Trevor Forbes were married on January 1, 2005. She is Associate Director of Admissions at GWU. He is working on a degree in education and is a gymnastics instructor.



**DANIEL RAYMOND SALMON '01 B.S.** was appointed in 2002 as the district overseer of the King-Stokes District for the Western Carolina Church of God. In October of 2004, he was honored by being named to the North Carolina Church of God State Council. He has also been appointed to serve as North Carolina state administrator for the Church of God School of Ministry. [revdsal@aol.com](mailto:revdsal@aol.com)

**GINA MARIE CALLICUTT '02 B.S.** and Joshua Grant were married on December 18, 2004. She is a special education teacher for Randolph County Schools. He is a sheriff's deputy with the Randolph County Sheriff's Department. The couple resides in Asheboro, N.C.

**MELISSA BETH ELLER '02 B.S.** and David Scott Hutchins were married on February 12, 2005. She is a children's case manager with New River Behavioral Healthcare. He is employed by Economy Copying Systems. The couple resides in Purlear, N.C.

**EMILEE FOX '02 B.S.** and Scott Myers were married on March 26, 2005. She is a teacher with Lincoln County Schools. He is a developer with Compass Group NAD. The couple resides in Shelby, N.C.

**MATTHEW ROBERT HILLMAN '02 B.A.** and Brooke Lindsey Hoffman were married January 8, 2005. He is a case manager for Support, Inc. She is a student at Gardner-Webb. The couple resides in Shelby, N.C.

**JADA ANNE HIPP '02 B.A.** see Jonathan Brad Huss '99 listing.

**GREG LLOYD '02 B.S.** is the head coach for East Gaston High School.

**DAN MCCLELLAN '02 B.A.** has been named as the Broadcast Production Technology Program Coordinator for Gaston College - Dallas, N.C. Dan spent the last three years working as station manager for WGWG 88.3 FM.

**BRIAN NUCKOLS '02 B.S. AND TIFFANY NUCKOLS '02 A.D.N.** Brian was promoted to hospital sales force with Johnson and Johnson, which led the couple to relocate to New Orleans, La. Tiffany is applying for R.N. licensure.  
tiffannynuckols@yahoo.com

## Graduate Alumni

### The '80s

**JIM SINGLETON '88 M.A.** see Jim Singleton '86 B.A.

### The '90s

**NAOMI WHITE HARWOOD '92 M.A.** is a math teacher at Chase High School. She has also met the requirements of the National Pharmacy Technician Board and is a certified pharmacy technician.  
teddybear\_93890@hotmail.com

**CALVIN FRADY '95 M.A.** see Calvin Frady '82 B.A. listing.

**MICHELLE STANLEY '95 M.A.** and Robert Stanley welcomed their first child, Jacob Anthony, on August 18, 2004.  
mlbridge@bellsouth.net

**DEBORAH MARSH '97 M.A.** is serving as principal of South Elementary School in Mooresville, N.C. She has served in administration at the school since 1997.

**CHRIS SLOAN '97 M.B.A.** see Chris Sloan '95 B.S. listing.

**JIM DAVIDSON '99 M.Div.** see Jim Davidson '96 B.A.

### The '00s

**BEVERLY HATCHER '00 M.Div.** is serving as pastor of Covenant Church in Salisbury, N.C.

**AUDRA BAUCOM ELLIS '03 M.A.** is working for the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention as a juvenile court counselor. She is also involved in community projects through the Department of Social Services, Communities in Schools and the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.  
audra.ellis@ncmail.net

**DEBORA GILBERT '03 M.S.N.,** see Debora Gilbert '01 B.S.N. listing.

**CHRISTOPHER S. HEFNER '03 M.B.A.** and Kristin Marie Hefner were married on January 8, 2005. He is a supply coordinator for Frye Regional Medical Center. She is a piano instructor for Christian Family Academy. The couple resides in Hickory, N.C.

**CALEY PARKER '03 M.B.A.** see Margaret Caley Parker '01 B.S. listing.

**MICHAEL G. SMITH '03 M.B.A.,** see Michael G. Smith '97 B.S. listing.

**DANIEL CALL '04 M.Div.** see Daniel Call '99 B.A. listing. joined E.J. Victor, Inc. as director of marketing services. She is responsible for all marketing-related activities.

# UNDERGRADUATE AND GOAL PROGRAM ALUMNI

**BRANDY BETTIS BORDERS '03 B.S.** and James Daniel Curtis were married on March 26, 2005. She is first-grade teacher at Elizabeth Elementary School. He is a service manager for Cintas. The couple resides in Shelby, N.C.

**JASON EDWARD BURTON '03 B.A. AND JESSICA MARIE ROBBINS '04 B.A.** were married on July 30, 2004. He is the minister of music at Reepsville Baptist Church. She is a choir teacher at West Lincoln High School. The couple resides in Vale, N.C.

**CHRISTOPHER TATE CAMPBELL '03 B.S.** and Natalie Joann Sipe were married on January 15, 2005.

He is a teacher and coach with Gwinnett County Schools. She is a speech-language pathologist for Life Care Center. The couple resides in Lawrenceville, Ga.

**LEIGH ANN ELMORE '03 B.S.** and Robert Keith Earwood were married on March 26, 2005. She is a physical education teacher and coach at Burns Middle School. He is the operator of Kebo's Convenience Store. The couple resides in Double Shoals, N.C.

**MARVIN JOINER '03 B.S.** is serving as a pharmaceutical product development manager with Haemonetics Corporation.

He will launch a new IV bag manufacturing line at the company's plant in Union, S.C.  
mjoiner@haemonetics.com

**REBECCA JEANETTE ROGERS '03 B.S.** and Kenneth Ross Payton, Jr. were married on November 27, 2004. She is a paralegal with the McIntosh Law Firm. He is a mechanic at Dale Earnhardt, Inc. The couple lives in Mooresville, N.C.

**JONATHAN SPANGLER '03 B.A. AND KORI SPANGLER '05 B.A.** announce the birth of their first child, Emma Grayce, born July 11, 2004.

**SAMANTHA STATON '03 B.A.** was the winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council regional auditions held January 15, 2005.

**LEE ADAMS '04 B.A.** placed first, second and third in the North Carolina Press Photographers Association monthly clip contest for January in the photo story category. He is a photographer and reporter for "Yes! Weekly."  
lee@theartshed.com

**NATALIE BROWN '04 B.A.** is pursuing a master of arts in professional communication at Clemson University. She works as a graduate lab assistant in the Multimedia, Authoring, Teaching and Research Facility and as a graduate research assistant in the Center for Collaborative Research.  
nb@clemson.edu

**MICHELLE LEA HARROLD '04 B.S.** and Michael Paul Triplett were married on December 26, 2004. They are both employed by Mountain Community Supports. The couple resides in Boomer, N.C.

**BRADLEY HENDREN '04 B.S.** has been recognized as the Newton Police Department's officer of the year by the American Legion Post # 16. He has been working with the department for 12 years. He serves as the traffic coordinator for the department.

**JULIA MANESS-LITTLE '04 B.S.** is a state probation/parole officer for Montgomery County.

**JEANNINE MCSWAIN '04 B.S.** and Brock McDonald were married on October 2, 2004. She is employed by Gardner-Webb University in University Relations. He is employed by Carolina Grating and Sight Development. The couple resides in Shelby, N.C.

**JESSICA MARIE ROBBINS '04 B.A.** see Jason Edward Burton '03 B.A. listing.

**TARA SHUBERT '04 B.S.** is a special education teacher for Gaston County Schools.  
taras@carolina.rr.com

**APRIL NICHOL SMITH '04 B.S.** and Victor Howard Kennedy were married on June 5, 2004. She is a legal assistant for Deaton, Biggers & Goulden. He is employed by MasTec. The couple resides in Shelby, N.C.



GWU Centennial Weekend April 2005

# DEATHS

**REV. MARVIN WILLIS, SR. '49 A.A.** died December 15, 2004. He served in the U.S. Army for two years and ministered in various churches for 45 years. During that time, he served as minister of music and education and as pastor. After his retirement, he served as the minister of music at East Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife, son, daughter and three grandchildren.

**CHARLES RONALD KISER '53 A.A.** died February 8, 2005. He was a sports columnist for the Cherryville Eagle for 56 years. He was a member of the Cherryville Hall of Fame and the North Carolina American Legion Hall of Fame. He was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for his service to community and state in 2004.

**JAMES L. "ROCK" ROLAND '58 A.A.** died March 4, 2005. He was a U.S. Navy veteran having served in the South Pacific and Japan. He worked for the Statesville Record and Landmark in a variety of capacities including pressroom assistant and foreman of the pressroom until his retirement in 1995. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

**CALVIN WAYNE DIXON '62 A.A.** died February 27, 2005. He was a Navy veteran of World War II and served as a highway patrol officer for North Carolina before entering the ministry in 1960. He served as pastor to churches throughout North Carolina and Washington, D.C. Most recently, he served as stated pastoral supply at Love Valley Presbyterian Church. He was also an active pilot and member of the Statesville Airport Commission. He is survived by his wife, three children, three grandchildren, a brother and two sisters.

**LINDA CAROL MATHENEY HAMRICK '73 B.S.** died February 12, 2005. She was a teacher for 32 years with Rutherford County Schools. She is survived by her parents, husband, two daughters, two sisters, a brother, two nieces, four nephews and a great-nephew.

**BARRY ALLEN DODSON '75 B.A.** died October 23, 2004. He was involved in church ministry for over 30 years through music, teaching and discipleship. He worked at Jackson's Music Studio teaching music to children. He is survived by his wife, three children, father, brother and several nieces and nephews.

**MARY LOU CAUSBY '77 A.D.N.** died March 31, 2005. She was an avid supporter of the Christian Service Organization at Gardner-Webb and volunteered much time working with the University's international students. She was also a life trustee of Limestone College and was awarded an honorary doctorate degree of public service in 2004 from the College. Mrs. Causby was a Sunday School teacher for 55 years at First Baptist Shelby and served as the church historian, president of the Women's Missionary Union and was a deacon. She was also the first female moderator of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association. She had traveled to over 70 countries on short-term mission trips. She was elected woman of the year three times in Shelby: 1968, 1993 and 1999. She was currently serving as chairperson of the Mainland Advisory Council of the Hawaii Baptist Academy. She is survived by her husband, two sons, an exchange student, several grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, sister and several nieces and nephews.

**MARTHA THOMPSON BLANTON '89 B.S.** died February 4, 2005. She was a teacher at Harris Elementary School and member of Grays Creek Baptist Church. She is survived by her husband, two sons, mother, stepfather and one brother.

**ELLEN BEAM, FORMER TRUSTEE**, died March 8, 2005. She served as president of Security Insurance and served as a teacher for 42 years. She was a member of Fallston Baptist Church. She was also former president of the Democratic Women of Cleveland County and a charter member of Fallston Women's Club. She is survived by three sisters, a brother-in-law, one brother, two sister-in-laws, two step-grandsons, two nieces, three nephews and five great-nieces and great-nephews.

**MARJORIE CRISP, FORMER FACULTY MEMBER**, died February 12, 2005. She served on the faculty at Wake Forest University for 35 years and was the first full-time female member of the faculty. She was a retired professor of physical education and was the first director of women's athletics. She is survived by two sisters, two brothers and 13 nieces and nephews.

**NETTIE R. GIDNEY, PROFESSOR EMERITA OF MUSIC**, died April 9, 2005. She was a voice instructor at Gardner-Webb from 1945-1947 and again from 1953-1975.

**REV. HAROLD M. WHITE, FORMER TRUSTEE**, died January 30, 2005. He was a pastor of Baptist churches in North Carolina, Texas and Virginia and worked for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina for 18 years in the field of stewardship education and promotion. He is survived by his wife, two sons, two grandchildren and two sisters.

**WILLIAM CLYDE MILLER, FORMER BASEBALL COACH AND ASSISTANT ATHLETICS DIRECTOR**, died March 22, 2005. He served Gardner-Webb for 16 years; 13 years as the head baseball coach. During that time, the team achieved a school record of 326 victories. He led the team to the most successful season in the University's history in 2000 with 44 wins, an NCAA Southeast Region title and a trip to the NCAA Division II World Series. That year he was named coach of the year for the South Atlantic Conference, and in 2001, he was awarded the N.C. Baseball Coaches' Association Meritorious Service Award. Overall, Coach Miller served as a collegiate coach for 32 years and amassed 835 victories. He was a member of the Southeast Bulloch High School, Georgia Southern University and the South Atlantic Conference Hall of Fame. He was a member of Boiling Springs United Methodist Church. He is survived by his wife, two sons, a daughter, six grandchildren, two sisters and two brothers.



# "THAT'S AMORE"

## *An Italian Journal Entry*

### *GWU Family and Friends Travel to Italy For Spring Break*

"When I went to Italy, I went home. In Venice, I was near my daddy's roots for the first time," said Mary Ruth Dixon '81.



The people of Venice recognized my maiden name (Zannon) as 'Venetian,' and one shop owner even said 'welcome home' to me. I felt a deep sense of comfort and peace there

that is beyond explanation. I did not want to leave."

Dixon, whose father was originally from Italy, joined me and eleven GWU alumni, students, faculty and friends on a spring break trip there in March. Together, we had lunch at an Autogrille somewhere east of Milan in northern Italy. We ate delicious Italian sandwiches and drank blood orange juice. When we loaded ourselves back onto the bus with twenty-seven fellow travelers from Oklahoma, we were on our way to Venice with a stop to visit Verona and "Juliet's balcony." It was in Verona, scarcely six hours after landing in Italy, that some of us had our first cone of gelato.

Like Angela Parris '84, '88, many of us enjoyed our gondola ride. Angela was not the only woman who did not mind at all that her gondolier was very handsome, as beautiful as anything she saw in Venice.

In Florence, biologists Amy Pardue '00 and Kristi Tipton used part of their free time to cross the River Arno and visit

two science museums. Also in Florence, a hearty group of women climbed the 464 steps to the top of the dome of Santa Maria del Fiore, the landmark of Florence. While we waited to enter the church, Paula Galloway '05 and Michelle Burr '05, commented that we might feel a little foolish standing in line and paying real money just to have to climb 464 steps. But after we had scaled the steep steps through narrow, dim passages and emerged at last to light and a grand view of Florence, we did not feel at all foolish.

While we women were climbing, Keith Dixon '76, and Glenn Bottoms were eating strawberries and cream and "discovering" The Baptistery. Some of us purchased Florentine leather. Paula's red bag will carry her belongings on trips for years to come, and Bill Graziano '99, '04 will wear his Italian leather jacket and shoes through fire if necessary.

Lunch at an olive mill on the way to Assisi was delicious, but Assisi itself was the highlight of the day. The church of St. Francis and the church of St. Clare were two of the opportunities for Dr. Carolyn Billings to enjoy the art of Italy.

When asked about their favorite part of the trip, most of the group had trouble answering. Indeed, we all may share Mary Ruth's feelings. "I am still in mourning because I am not in Italy." Join us when we return to Italy next spring. This time we are going to Rome, Naples, Sicily, and points in between. Contact Nancy Bottoms at [nbottoms@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:nbottoms@gardner-webb.edu) or call her at 704-406-3905 for further information.

-Nancy Bottoms

# Cultivated Seeds

## '90 Alum Remembers GWU Experience as Pivotal Time in Her Life

Though her Gardner-Webb classmates may remember her as Chrissy Vaughn, today she answers to a new name: Dr. Coley.

"But Chrissy is fine," she says with a laugh. She has not let that title change who she is. She greets maintenance workers that she passes by name and has a conversation about family with the cafeteria worker at the cash register.

While at Gardner-Webb, Dr. Coley '90 served as SGA President, graduated at the top of her class and received the distinguished Etta L. Curtis Award for outstanding female graduate. She went on to obtain advanced degrees from The University of South Carolina (USC) and Georgia State University, earning a master's in student personnel services and a doctorate in higher education. She is currently employed as the director of retention and planning at USC.

Her four years as a Gardner-Webb student were "the most transformative years of my life," Dr. Coley remarks. "GWU provided a nurturing environment to explore and opportunities to grow. It was comfortable and challenging at the same time."

As she reflects, she is grateful for the lessons learned outside the classroom as well. "GWU focused on us as holistic students," Dr. Coley explains, "Not just academically or spirituality, but as a whole. I needed that, and Gardner-Webb provided."

Dr. Coley is a firm believer in being a well-rounded student by participating in extracurricular activities. She says that her leadership positions, SGA president, SEA chair, and Residence Hall Chaplain, to name a few "helped me to gain confidence as a student, as well as a leader." And because of those exceptional leadership abilities, she influenced countless students during her years at GWU.

Dr. Coley is especially appreciative of the impact that was made on her by GWU faculty members. The personal care and attention was one of many reasons why she loved being a Bulldog. "I didn't have a professor whom I thought didn't care about me," she states. "They really wanted us to grow and develop and do well."

A smile spreads across her face as she fondly recalls memories of Dr. Tom Jones and their snorkeling trip to Florida, Dr. Tony Eastman, "smoking his pipe," and gaining wisdom from Dr. Alice Cullinan's religion classes. "She really made that text come alive for me," says Dr. Coley.



Dr. Jim Taylor was another faculty member of whom she had great respect. As she wrestled with her decision of what major to choose, Dr. Taylor encouraged her to look for "classes that fulfilled me," she recounts. He was instrumental in helping her figure out her passions in life, which lead to her decision to major in liberal arts. "He was actually my first model of retention," she explains, referring to her own job as a retention specialist at USC.

Dr. Coley feels that her undergraduate studies at Gardner-Webb gave her a strong foundation for her future. As much as students may groan over the amount of books to read and papers to write in a semester, Dr. Coley looks back and appreciates their necessity. "All of that made it much easier for me to handle the rigors of grad school," she says, and prepare me for life.

When asked what she would say to current or prospective Gardner-Webb students, she describes her Alma Mater as "a place with a heart. This is a place where you will matter. You will be challenged and supported." Dr. Coley suggests that students take advantage of every opportunity that is presented because the (college) years don't last long.

"I don't mean to say that being married, being a mom, and having a career are not important," Dr. Coley states. "But my time at GWU was the most pivotal, the most transformative." She says those years helped to set the direction for the rest of her life. She shakes her head with a smile and says, "I don't know where I'd be without those four years at Gardner-Webb."

-Pamela Darnell

# INVALUABLE RELATIONSHIPS

## *Gardner-Webb Staff Member Receives Honor From Long-time Friends*



"He is a wonderful friend and deserving of being honored," said Ella Mae Nichols, who, with her husband, Mailon, presented a substantial financial gift to Gardner-Webb University in honor of Rev. Bruce Rabon. Rabon serves as GWU's assistant vice president for development for religious studies.

"We met Bruce in 1996," Ella Mae Nichols said. "It was instant friendship. His smile and enthusiasm are so real. We saw what a dedicated Christian and servant of God he is. His faith and dedication to God and Gardner-Webb is always evident."

Rabon, who graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1964, came back to the university to work in 1993 after serving as pastor at Double Springs Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C. He works as chief fundraiser for the department of religious studies and the school of divinity. He also plays a significant role in the university's Christian Service Organization (CSO).

"He's had a special love for helping young people prepare for ministry," said Scoot Dixon, senior vice president for university relations and development. "The CSO's endowment has grown significantly under his leadership over

the last 10 years. He's a very special friend of Gardner-Webb's and a very special friend of mine. He's just a very special person."

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IS ALWAYS EVIDENT."

*-Ella Mae Nichols*

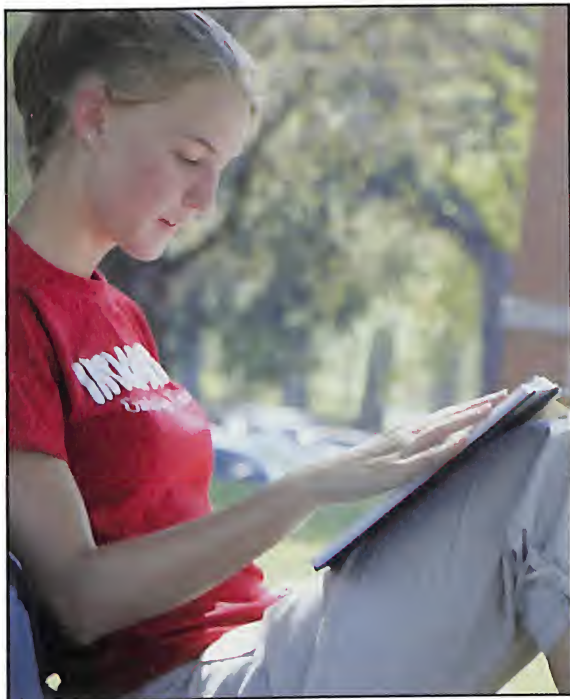
GWU President Frank Campbell agrees that Rabon makes a significant impact at GWU.

"As I reflect on my time here, I think about those individuals who have been my partners in the work of ministry at Gardner-Webb," Campbell said. "At the top of my list, I will place the name of Bruce Rabon. I look forward to the reports I will be getting of the good work that Bruce and others will be doing in the future."

Mailon Nichols serves as a member of GWU's board of trustees. He is retired from the U.S. Air Force and Lowe's Companies, Inc. He and his wife reside in Taylorsville, N.C., where they are active members of Antioch Baptist Church.

**If you have someone special that you would like to honor with a gift such as this, contact Dr. David Boan, assistant vice president for development – major gifts at 704-406-3251 or via e-mail at [dboan@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:dboan@gardner-webb.edu).**

# A GIFT WORTH GIVING



Each fall and spring semester, a select group of Gardner-Webb students do what comes naturally to college students – they pick up the nearest phone and call to ask for money! These students get in touch with alumni and friends of GWU to inform them about the latest campus news and activities and to remind them of the importance of their annual gifts to the Gardner-Webb Fund.

Every dollar given to the Gardner-Webb Fund goes to support student scholarships. Since phone-a-thon callers are often recipients of this direct support, it is quite meaningful for these students to speak directly to the alumni and friends who help support their education.

These Gardner-Webb Fund scholars would like to say thank you to all who have already contributed to this fund. If you have not yet supported this fund with a gift, it is never too late! Simply return your gift with the provided form – and remember that you are helping to provide quality education to deserving students in a caring, Christian atmosphere.

## GARDNER-WEBB FUND

- ☐ **YES!** I WISH TO GIVE A GIFT OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE GARDNER-WEBB FUND.
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## ALUMNI NEWS NOTES

### NEW JOB? BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT? WEDDING? LET US KNOW!

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Complete, clip and mail to: Jeff Porter, The Webb magazine, Gardner-Webb University,  
P.O. Box 997, Boiling Springs, NC 28017  
or submit your class note online at: [www.gardner-webb.edu/alumni/classnote.shtml](http://www.gardner-webb.edu/alumni/classnote.shtml)

# The Final Word



The 2004-05 academic year has been one full of excitement, celebration and reflection. It was also a time of rediscovery and change. It was a time to truly remember what a "Great" university we have in Gardner-Webb.

In April, GWU celebrated its "Centennial" with concerts, alumni reunions, a family festival, a birthday party and more (Pages 16 -17). The event was a commemoration of our past, present and our future. It truly was the "Celebration of the Century." The success of this festivity has given way to another event that we hope will become an annual affair. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 1. More information about this will be forthcoming.

This summer marks a time when Gardner-Webb says farewell to a compassionate leader and friend, Dr. Frank Campbell. Dr. Campbell is leaving GWU after dedicating several years and countless hours to a university in transition (Pages 2 - 4). His impact on the Gardner-Webb community and beyond will be felt for years to come. His tenure as president will be remembered as one of the most important times in Gardner-Webb history. He will be missed.

As we are saying our goodbyes to Dr. Campbell, we also welcome our new president, Dr. Frank Bonner (page 5). Dr. Bonner has been an essential part of Gardner-Webb for nearly 20 years. He has been active in Baptist life, the community and several civic organizations during his career. He brings proven leadership and a strong vision for the future of our university. Please join me as we welcome Dr. Bonner as the 12th president of Gardner-Webb.

2004-05 will also be remembered as a time when GWU athletics took on the national spotlight as well. GWU baseball player, Zach Ward pitched his way into

professional baseball (page 13) and the men's basketball team fought their way to a conference championship and was just one step shy of the NCAA tournament (page 12). In fall 2005, a heavy schedule of action is planned for GWU athletics, including seven home football games.

Gardner-Webb also continues to pride itself on a world-class faculty and staff (pages 8 - 9). In fall '05, many students will meet for the first time Dr. James R. Dire, associate provost for arts and sciences, and Divinity School Dean, Dr. Charles Bugg. Students will also notice that Dr. Joyce Brown is no longer a Gardner-Webb fixture. After nearly 40 years of service, Dr. Brown is retiring from the University, but the name of Joyce Compton Brown will live on. The annual Life of the Scholar lecture series will carry her name.

We also continue to celebrate our students and alumni. Everyday, we witness Gardner-Webb products exemplifying our motto, "For God and Humanity." We have current students and alums providing leadership and honoring their GWU heritage in hospitals (page 10 & 14), on the playing field (pages 18 - 19), in the ministry, in educational settings (page 29) and in various career choices around the world (pages 20-29). We commend you and thank you.

And in closing, we invite you all to experience Gardner-Webb throughout our upcoming academic year. Concerts, athletic events, theatre, lecture series and alumni events are all on slate for you as you explore the Gardner-Webb experience.

Remember, at Gardner-Webb, we always have great things in mind for you.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Scoot".

Ralph "Scoot" Dixon  
Sr. Vice President for  
University Relations and Development



**JOIN THE GWU TAG TEAM!!**

*For more information call the  
Office of Alumni Relations at 704-406-4255  
or email: [alumni@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:alumni@gardner-webb.edu)*

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